

Title (en)
Feed mechanism and method therefor.

Title (de)
Zuführvorrichtung und Verfahren dafür.

Title (fr)
Dispositif et méthode d'alimentation.

Publication
EP 0502444 A2 19920909 (EN)

Application
EP 92103469 A 19920228

Priority
US 66370991 A 19910304

Abstract (en)
Apparatus and method for sequential provision of a series of similarly configured objects to and from a proximal location such as a device for testing those objects. The objects are provided in a gravity-fed stack to a changer that includes a container, a holder slidably disposed in that container and configured to hold a limited number (such as one) of the objects, and a mover or driver for transporting the holder repeatedly between first and second positions within the container. In the first position, the holder is disposed under the stack of objects being fed to receive one of those objects. In the other position, the holder is positioned to gravity feed the object to the proximal location where the object is to be utilized. The holder can be configured with a single space, or with double parallel spaces, each of which can receive one object. For a holder having only one such space, the second position is also utilized to permit ejection of the used object, by an appropriate force, from the proximal location. For a holder having two such spaces, the first position is utilized for such ejection, so that receipt of another one of the objects can take place while or even before the fed object is so ejected. <IMAGE>

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